



**Education Advising Center
Public Affairs Section-United States
Embassy, Lusaka**

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Dear Headmasters/Headmistresses:

We, at the United States Embassy, believe that there are many talented students in Zambia who lack access to information and funding required to better their educational futures. In an attempt to mitigate this problem we are proud to announce the commencement of our second United States Student Achievers Program (USAP)

USAP assists highly-talented, economically-disadvantaged students to negotiate and finance the application process for admission to selective colleges and universities in the United States. We work to strengthen their application so that they might be eligible for full-scholarships. USAP began in Zimbabwe in 1999 with the aim of providing access to higher education for determined, bright, low-income youth, thus producing highly-skilled and liberally-educated leaders for tomorrow's Zimbabwe. Eight years later, there are active USAP programs based at EducationUSA advising centers in 17 countries on 4 continents: Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Latvia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Nigeria, Serbia, South Africa, Uganda, the UK, Zambia and Zimbabwe. More than 200 USAP students have excelled as students at America's top colleges and universities, and many are continuing graduate studies or are working all over the globe.

Our center in Zambia works with students accepted into USAP through regular seminars to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities in the United States. From our USAP 2009 cohort we have students applying to universities such as **Yale, Harvard, MIT, Stanford** and **Princeton**. It is essential that the students are able to make arrangements to be in Lusaka for a full 2 weeks in both June and November. Seminar topics to be covered include selecting the right college or university, application forms, how to write application essays, standardized testing, financial aid and scholarship forms. The cost of the program and subsequent testing will be covered by the US embassy, however, if the student must travel to Lusaka for the program, they must arrange for their own food, transportation, and lodging. Although we will work closely with students to try to increase their chances of finding admission and scholarships, **PLEASE NOTE THAT ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**. The success of a student's application to the US depends largely on the outcome of his/her SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores as well as his/her ECZ examination results, and ability to write coherently. Students may want to begin studying for the SAT before they are accepted into USAP to give them additional study time.

Please assist us in identifying highly talented and motivated students at your school, **who completed their grade 12 exit exams in 2009**, are interested in participating in this program and who have the dream of studying in the USA. Please provide them with a copy of the enclosed application and note the deadline of **April 30th, 2010**. We are looking for students with the best possible results (All students from the 2009 cohort received either 6 or 7 points in their best of 6 subjects on their ECZ exam or the

equivalent in the Cambridge exam), who have strong English speaking, reading and writing skills, who are leaders in their schools and communities and who are highly motivated and involved. The program will be very competitive – this year we are expecting to receive many applications for the limited spaces available. I have enclosing two application forms. Feel free to photocopy them as needed if they are insufficient. Please do **not** have your entire class apply, but try to assist us in screening your very top students. Selection for the USAP program will be based on academic records, leadership abilities and financial need.

We also make a plea for you to consider all of your extremely bright students. We tend to get most applications from boys who do well in the sciences, math and commercials. There are many solid liberal arts colleges who are actively looking for liberal arts students and women's colleges who are recruiting highly-talented Zambian girls.

In addition, please know that there are also educational advising services apart from USAP that are available for those students who may not have performed as well as they would have expected, but whose parents are in better financial positions to fund their studies in the United States. Please feel free to give them our contact information and we can further discuss their options.

Thank you for your assistance in identifying qualified students for this worthy initiative. After receiving and reviewing all applications and making our selections, because of the volume of applicants, we will only respond to the students that have been admitted and begin. We look forward to working with you more in the future to assist Zambia's talented youth to gain access to extraordinary opportunities and pursue higher education in United States of America. Please feel free to contact us with any question regarding education advising.

Yours sincerely,

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Completed Applications may be mailed to:

*Educational Advisor
American Center
P.O. Box 31617
Lusaka, Zambia*

Or they may be hand delivered to:

*The American Center
COMESA Building
Ben Bella Rd.
Lusaka, Zambia*